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Remarks:

The amendments and remarks presented herein are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action dated February 17, 2006. In light of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application.

Claims 1-3, 7, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23-28, 30, 31, 41, 42, 44-58, 68, 71, 73-79, 81, 82, 84 and 85 are pending in the application. Claims 15 and 29 have been canceled herein without prejudice and claims 1, 7, 16, 17, 20, 23, 25-28, 30, 42, 44, 46-49, 51, 53-56, 58, 68 and 73-79 have been amended as set forth above. Claims 4-6, 8-14, 18, 19, 22, 32-40, 43, 59-67, 69, 70, 72, 80, 83, 86 and 87 were previously canceled without prejudice. The amendments are fully supported in the specification and drawings as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

PERSONAL INTERVIEW CONDUCTED MAY 17, 2006

The undersigned attorney would like to personally thank Examiner Lao for the courtesies extended during the personal interview conducted on May 17, 2006. At the interview, the undersigned attorney and Dr. Niall Lynam, one of the named inventors on the present application, were given the opportunity to discuss the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art, particularly the ul Azam et al., Martinelli et al. and Bauer et al. patents. The Examiner indicated that the proposed amendments discussed at the interview would overcome the current rejections of the claims.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 3, 7, 17, 20-21, 23-28, 41, and 73-79 were rejected under U.S. 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable Ul Azam et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,566,224, in view of Martinelli et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,943,044, and Bauer et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,262,831. Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over ul Azam et al. in view of Martinelli et al., Bauer et al., and Blank et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,576,687. Claim 68 was rejected

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under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ul Azam in view of Martinelli et al., Bauer et al. and Friend et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,497,368. Claims 15-16, 29-31, 42, 44-48, 51-55, 58, 71, 81-82, and 84-85 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ul Azam in view of Martinelli et al., Bauer et al. and Takekawa, U.S. Patent No. 6,091,376. Claims 49 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ul Azam in view of Martinelli et al., Bauer et al., Takekawa and Blank et al. Claims 56-57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ul Azam in view of Martinelli et al., Bauer et al., Takekawa, and Schofield et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,786,772.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for the reasons set forth below.

Without acquiescing in the rejection of the claims, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to clarify that the interactive vehicular mirror system comprises a plurality of user actuatable selector elements, with the plurality of user actuatable selector elements comprising touch sensitive elements. The user actuatable selector elements are provided at the bezel portion at a plurality of bezel locations. The mirror system includes a plurality of display elements at the interior rearview mirror assembly at a plurality of display locations. Each of the display elements generates a respective display. The displays of the display elements are generated in response to the touch sensitive elements of the user actuatable selector elements being actuated by a user. A display element of the plurality of display elements is associated with a respective one of the touch sensitive elements at the bezel portion. The display element is selectively activated by activation of the respective touch sensitive element. The display location of the display element and the bezel location of the respective touch sensitive element are one of local one another and co-located such that a cognitive relationship between the display element and the respective touch sensitive element is established by actuation of the respective touch sensitive element at the bezel location and the resultant generation of the display of the display element at the display location.

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Applicants have also amended independent claim 28 to clarify that the interactive vehicular mirror system includes a second display element at a second display location. The second user actuatable selector element comprises a second touch sensitive element, and is provided at the bezel portion of the mirror casing at a second bezel location. The first and second touch sensitive elements of the first and second user actuatable selector elements are responsive to a change in at least one of heat, electrical capacitance, electrical inductance or electrical resistance due to at least close approachment of a human finger. A second display is generated by the second display element. The second display of the second display element is generated in response to the second touch sensitive element of the second user actuatable selector element being actuated by a user. The second display location of the second display element and the second bezel location of the second user actuatable selector element are one of local or another and co-located such that a cognitive relationship between the second display element and the second user actuatable selector element is established by actuation of the second touch sensitive element of the second user actuatable selector element at the second bezel location and resultant generation of the second display of the second display element at the second display location.

Applicants have also amended independent claim 53 to clarify that the interactive vehicular mirror system includes at least one display element. The first bezel location of the first user actuatable selector element is one of local and co-located with a first display location of the first display such that a cognitive relationship between the first user actuatable selector element and the first display is established by actuation of the first touch sensitive element at the first bezel location and resultant generation of the first display at the first display location. The second bezel location of the second user actuatable selector element is one of local and co-located with a second display location of the second display such that a cognitive relationship between the second user actuatable selector element and the second display is established by actuation of the second touch sensitive element at the second bezel location and resultant generation of the second display at the second display location.

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The dependent claims have been amended to correspond to the language of the clarified independent claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that ul Azam et al., either alone or in combination with Martinelli et al. and/or Bauer et al. and/or any other prior art of record, does not disclose, teach or suggest or render obvious the mirror system of the present invention, particularly as set forth in independent claims 1, 28 and 53 and in the claims depending therefrom. To the contrary, ul Azam et al. discloses a mirror with the mirrored surface containing a display area. The display may display telephone numbers that may be scrolled through via activation of a touch sensitive point on the mirrored surface. Further, Martinelli et al. discloses a force sensing semiconductive touchpad, while Bauer et al. discloses an electrochromic mirror with user-activated switches or buttons at a bezel of the mirror.

Thus, the combination of ul Azam et al., Martinelli et al. and Bauer et al. does not disclose or suggest the claimed invention. For example, none of these patents disclose or suggest providing two or more displays associated with respective touch sensitive elements at the bezel portion of a mirror assembly. Nor do these patents disclose or suggest, for example, that the display location of a display element of a plurality of display elements and the bezel location of a respective touch sensitive element are one of local one another and co-located such that a cognitive relationship between the display element and the respective touch sensitive element is established by actuation of the respective touch sensitive element at the bezel location and the resultant generation of the display of the display element at the display location.

Further, these patents do not disclose or suggest, for example, a mirror system having first and second displays generated in response to first and second touch sensitive elements being actuated by a user. Nor do these patents disclose or suggest, for example, the first and second display locations of the first and second display elements and the respective first and second bezel locations of the first and second user actuatable selector elements being one of local one another and co-located such that (a) a cognitive relationship between the first display

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element and the first user actuatable selector element is established by actuation of the first touch sensitive element at the first bezel location and resultant generation of the first display at the first display location, and (b) a cognitive relationship between the second display element and the second user actuatable selector element is established by actuation of the second touch sensitive element at the second bezel location and resultant generation of the second display at the second display location.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that ul Azam et al., Martinelli et al. and/or Bauer et al., either alone or in combination with one another or with any other prior art of record, do not disclose, teach, suggest or render obvious the interactive vehicular mirror system of the present invention, particularly as set forth in independent claims 1, 28 and 53 and in the claims depending therefrom. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the pending claims is respectfully requested.


Claims 1-3, 7, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23-28, 30, 31, 41, 42, 44-58, 68, 71, 73-79, 81, 82, 84, and 85 remain pending in the application. Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly and respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (616) 975-5500.

Respectfully Submitted,

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